

Both *P. bicolor* and *nigritarsis* occur in Scotland and are probably widespread although currently under-recorded.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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### SHORT COMMUNICATION

***Hydrometra gracilentata* Horvath (Hemiptera: Hydrometridae) in East Sussex.**—I took a single specimen of *H. gracilentata* from the margin of a drainage ditch in the Pevensey Levels, East Sussex (TQ6606), 30.vii.1988. *H. gracilentata* is a very rare species in Britain, with previous records only from the Norfolk Broads and the New Forest (Shirt, 1987). There appear to be no recent records from the latter locality. The bug's habitat in Norfolk, as described by Brown (1948) and Leston (1952) was under the shade of dense clumps of *Carex* and *Juncus* at the margin of shallow water over a peaty substrate. It was found in quite different conditions in Sussex. The ditch from which it was taken was several feet across and up to two feet deep. It was well vegetated, with emergent *Phragmites* across much of its width in places. The marginal vegetation was well-developed and varied, including some *Carex* clumps, but was not especially dense and did not give heavy shade. The substratum was silty and contained no peat. It is worth noting that in mainland Europe *H. gracilentata* is a relatively frequent species and is found at the margins of a wide range of types of water body.

*H. gracilentata* was the last specimen collected before leaving the area from which it was taken, and its identity was not recognized at the time. I therefore have no impression of the frequency of the species at the site. The Pevensey Levels are large, and could support a considerable population of the insect. Several other parts of the levels were visited, but no *H. gracilentata* were seen. However, this does not mean that they were not there: *Hydrometra* can be difficult to find amongst marginal vegetation, and on this occasion the common *H. stagnorum* was not recorded at all.

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